



## Water Quality Technical Forum Report

**Chlorine Residual and Coliform Data for December 2005 were not available at publication time for this issue of the Leak**

### Taste and Odor

The taste and odor panel is meeting every other week. Samples are rated on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 representing the best and 9 representing the worst. The taste and odor flavor rating assessment (FRA) for the Cedar supply (Lake Youngs treated) samples in December were 1.8 and 1.6 and they were described as slightly chlorinous. The two Tolt supply results were 1.3 and 1.4 with a chlorinous taste. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the taste and odor panel results, please e-mail Moya Joubert at [moya.joubert@seattle.gov](mailto:moya.joubert@seattle.gov).

### Lead and Copper

All of the 2005 2nd round lead and copper samples have been submitted, analyzed, and reported to WDOH. Each of the four regions met the action level and should be eligible for reduced monitoring in 2006 pending state approval. There were only 11 out of 406 samples that exceeded the lead action level: 2 in Seattle, 5 in Bellevue, and 4 in the Tolt purveyor area. SPU mailed results to purveyors the 1st week of December (please note that each participating utility is responsible for



## Water Supply Outlook

Our water supply situation and outlook are good. Snowpack accumulations have started relatively early in the season, with approximately 4.1 inches of snow water equivalent being measured in the Cedar River Watershed, and 6.8 inches in the South Fork Tolt River Watershed.

We are holding regulated streamflows in both the S.F. Tolt and Cedar rivers downstream of our reservoirs above guaranteed normal levels for this time of the year. This week we are releasing water from Chester Morse Lake reservoir to reestablish our winter season flood pocket.

Chester Morse Lake is about 2.5 feet above its long-term average (based on the years 1989 to 2005). The South Fork Tolt Reservoir is about 0.8 feet below its long-term average.

Water consumption for the 7-day period last week averaged approximately 115 mgd. That slightly above the 114 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and less than the average of 130 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000.

sending the results to the customers who participated). We will notify participants as soon as additional details from WDOH are available regarding timing of the next round and approval for reduced sampling.

SPU Contact: Wylie Harper, 206 684-7880 or Lynn Kirby, 206 684-0216.



## Conservation Technical Forum

On the web at <http://www.savingwater.org>

### YOUTH EDUCATION

#### Waterbusters Game Attracts Attention

Since July, the Waterbusters interactive conservation game has received 10,000 visits. This is nearly a two-fold increase from last year and could be attributed to revisions that were made to make it more challenging and fun. During the summer months, the special promotional cartoon featuring Bert the Salmon and Phil Dumpster (the game's main characters) ran on two regional television stations with children's programming. Recent additions to the game make it possible to evaluate user responses to determine if the game is having any impact. Plans are in the works to develop a new education web page to better showcase the game and other education products and services

CONTACT: Mike Mercer, (206) 684-0570.

### RESIDENTIAL INDOOR

#### WashWise Program Changes 2006

The rebate program will ratchet-up the criteria for rebate eligibility starting January 1, 2006. SWP customers will be eligible for the full \$25, \$50, or \$100 rebate regardless of whether they buy electricity from PSE, SCL, or SnoPUD. These changes are being made as a continual effort to push the WashWise program to higher levels of efficiency. The Three Star rebates of \$100 will

only apply of machines that are extremely energy and water efficient. The vast majority of current \$100 rebates eligible machines will continue to be eligible for \$100 rebates.

CONTACT: Billie Fisher (206) 615-1282

#### Multi-Family Toilet Rebate Program

The current program will sunset on December 31, 2005 while we process outstanding rebates and allow customers to finish their projects. The program will resume in February or March 2006, with the continuation of the free or \$80 rebate option for the purchase of Flush-Star qualifying toilets.

CONTACT: Billie Fisher, (206) 615-1282

### RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE

#### Residential Landscapes: Looking Ahead to 2006

Since the 1% program started we have delivered to customers a variety of service for reducing residential outdoor water use in landscapes. With the new year upon us, staff are identifying the gaps in our existing service connections that need strengthening and untapped partners. This analysis should help us better integrate our current efforts and develop new program strategies and tactics that enhance and expand our landscape conservation services.

CONTACT: Liz Fikejs, (206) 615-0516

#### Irrigation Trainings

On December 7, SWP and the Washington Irrigation Contractors Association (WICA) hosted the Irrigation Water Management Societies' Site Water Management Planning certification and training, which focused on how to analyze out-door water use with water budgets and billing consumption to determine water saving improvements for customers with automatic irrigation systems. After the training, about 25 people participated in an hour long

sprinkler rebate training and roundtable event. During the roundtable, contractors were asked for feedback about the rebate program. A few suggestions were made for improvements; but overall the general opinion was very positive. All feedback will be assessed and used to guide future service delivery.

CONTACT: Jenna Smith (206) 684-5955  
To learn more about conservation, please visit [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org).

### **Toilet Purchasing and Installation Tips Look for Performance and Shop Around**

Many 1.6 gallon toilets work remarkably better than toilets made just a few years ago. When choosing a toilet, look for a FlushStar model (See the link below for a list of FlushStar toilets to choose from). FlushStar lists toilets with good flushing performance and reliable long-term water savings. FlushStar products are available from a variety of manufacturers and span a broad range of prices. Many FlushStar toilets flush as low as 1.0 gallon per flush.

### **Doing-It-Yourself?**

#### **Anticipate Possible Additional Work Required**



Replacing a toilet can be a do-it-yourself task. While some toilet replacement jobs will proceed as simple “drop-in” replacements, there are a number of small and large additional tasks that could arise.

These may include:

- Floor tile work
- Faulty shut-off valve repair
- Repair or modification of water supply lines
- Repair or modification of the drain line pitch
- Repair or modification of the venting system
- Painting of wall  
(if the new toilet tank is smaller than the old one)

Be prepared for unanticipated problems and make sure you have backup support, in case you find yourself with a situation beyond your skill level.

### **Choose a Licensed Plumber**

Price around and get quotes before the work is done. Each quote should include any related jobs that need to be part of the project and any extra work items that could develop during the job. The quote should also include the total number of hours, the plumber's rate per hour and an itemized list of direct expense costs so that a comparison between quotes can be easily made.

### **Plan for Disposal of Old Toilets**

Talk to your plumber about a plan to dispose of the old toilets. Metal internal toilet parts can be removed and recycled. In Seattle, the South Recycling and Disposal Station (see link below for hours & location) will accept old porcelain toilets for free recycling. OLD SEATS MUST BE REMOVED before recycling.

[http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Water/Reduce\\_Water\\_Use/COS\\_005270.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Water/Reduce_Water_Use/COS_005270.asp)

## Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfectant Byproduct Rules

### A Workshop for Municipal Water Providers

January 25, 2006

9:30am – 1:30pm

Mercer Island Council Chambers

9611 SE 36th Street – Mercer Island, WA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized the latest regulation on disinfection byproducts (DBPs) on December 15, 2005. To view more detailed information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/>.

SPU and HDR will present a workshop to focus on the impacts of the latest regulations and how regional utility managers / policy makers can factor these changes into their operations and long-term planning.

#### Mediator:

Melinda Friedman with HDR/EES will present.

#### Workshop Topics include:

- Compliance Options for IDSE (System Specific Study or Standard Monitoring Program)
- Writing Your IDSE Monitoring Plan or System Specific Study
- Sampling Locations/Parameters/Frequency/Numbers of Samples
- Reporting Requirements
- Stage 2 Schedule and Deadlines
- Regional Responsibilities and Coordination
- Role of the Regulators (EPA and WDOH)
- Long Term Monitoring Requirements
- Communications
- Costs
- Q&A

#### Registration:

Registrations will be taken until January 13th, 2006. To make your reservation, please call or e-mail Erin Lahti, (206) 233-2571, [Erin.Lahti@Seattle.gov](mailto:Erin.Lahti@Seattle.gov). There is no charge for attendance. Lunch will be provided. Directions are available upon request.

#### Sponsored by:

Seattle Public Utilities and HDR/EES.